IT'S AWESOME! IT'S EPIC! IT'S INTENSE! IT'S--
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
Archie COMICS
SEGA
ISSUE 256
COUNTDOWN TO CHAOS!
THE CONCLUSION
ARCHIECOMICS.COM

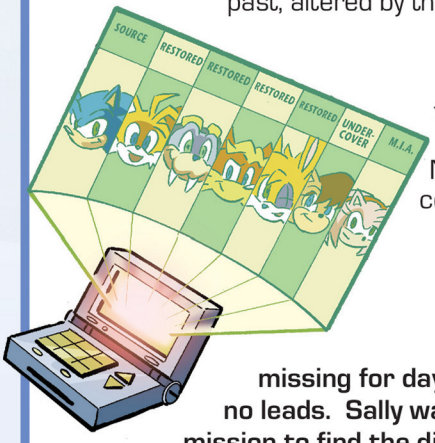
Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures – A world unique & beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Sonic and his friends work to save the world from the forces of evil!

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™

PREVIOUSLY...

THE TEAM REUNITES! LET FREEDOM RING!

After foiling Dr. Eggman's plans, both Sonic and Eggman woke up back in their home world, but with new memories – and a new past, altered by the reality-warping Genesis Wave!



Ever since, Sonic has been reuniting his fellow freedom fighters restoring their memories and in the process restoring Nicole's fractured database. Once complete, they hope to understand what happened to their world!

Only two Freedom Fighters are missing now: Sally Acorn and Amy Rose. Amy has been missing for days with no leads. Sally was on a mission to find the disabled Death Egg and steal crucial data. While she succeeded, Dr. Eggman discovered her, and sent Metal Sonic to ensure she didn't escape...

WHO'S WHO

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
FASTEST THING ALIVE

MILES "TAILS" PROWER
SONIC'S BEST BUD

DR. EGGMAN
SONIC'S MAD SCIENTIST NEMESIS

METAL SONIC
SONIC'S EVIL ROBOTIC DOUBLE

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (ISSN:10705090), No. 256, February, 2014. Published monthly by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Jonathan Goldwater, Publisher/Co-CEO, Nancy Silberkleit, Co-CEO, Mike Pellerito, President, Victor Gorelick, Co-President. Single copies $2.99. Subscription rate: $35.88 for 12 issues. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds. SEGA, Sonic The Hedgehog, and all related characters and indicia are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA CORPORATION © 1991-2013. SEGA CORPORATION and SONICTEAM, LTD./SEGA CORPORATION © 1991-2013. All Rights Reserved. The product is manufactured under license from Sega of America, Inc., 350 Rhode Island Street, Ste 400, San Francisco, CA 94103 www.sega.com. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Mamaroneck, New York and at additional mailing offices. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Printed in USA.

MOBOTROPOLIS, WESTSIDE ISLAND...
MISS BLAZE DID IT! WE'RE HOME!*
WE SURE ARE! I BET SONIC MISSED ME...
CREAM THE RABBIT YOUNG FLYER
AMY ROSE THE HAMMER
CHEESE DEVOTED CHAO CHAMPION
FWA-WHOOSH!
HE BETTER HAVE MISSED ME...
BEAN THE DUCK DYNAMITE MERCENARY
BARK THE POLAR BEAR SILENT PARTNER
*"PIRATE PLUNDER PANIC" --SU#55-58.
OH, GOODNESS! I BET MOTHER IS WORRIED SICK!
DON'T WORRY, CREAM. WE'RE BACK, WE'RE SAFE, AND WE'LL TELL HER ALL ABOUT OUR ADVENTURES OVER TEA LIKE ALWAYS.
OOH!
WILL THERE BE CRUMPETS? TEA BISCUITS?
SCONES?!

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Inks: TERRY AUSTIN
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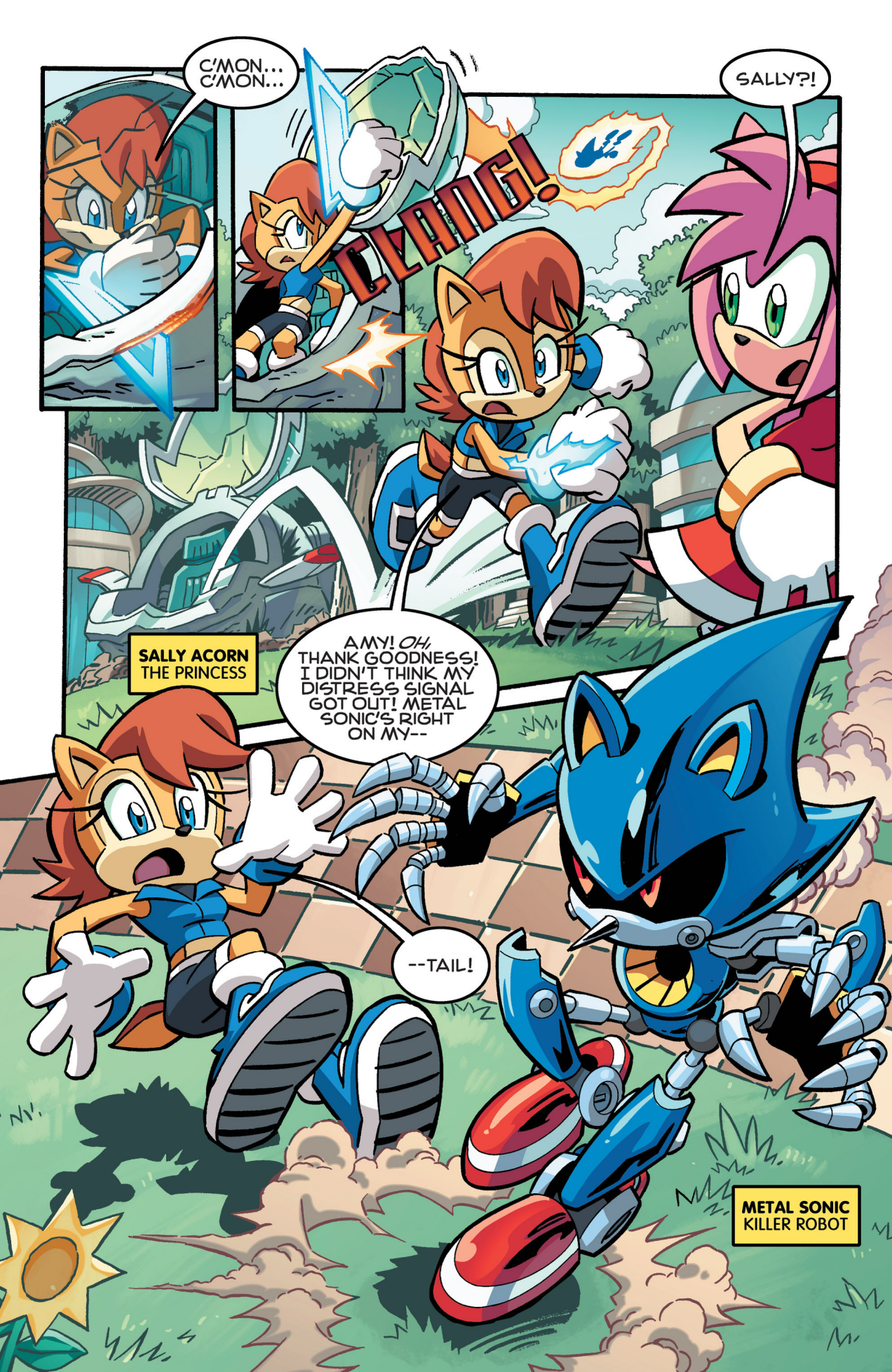
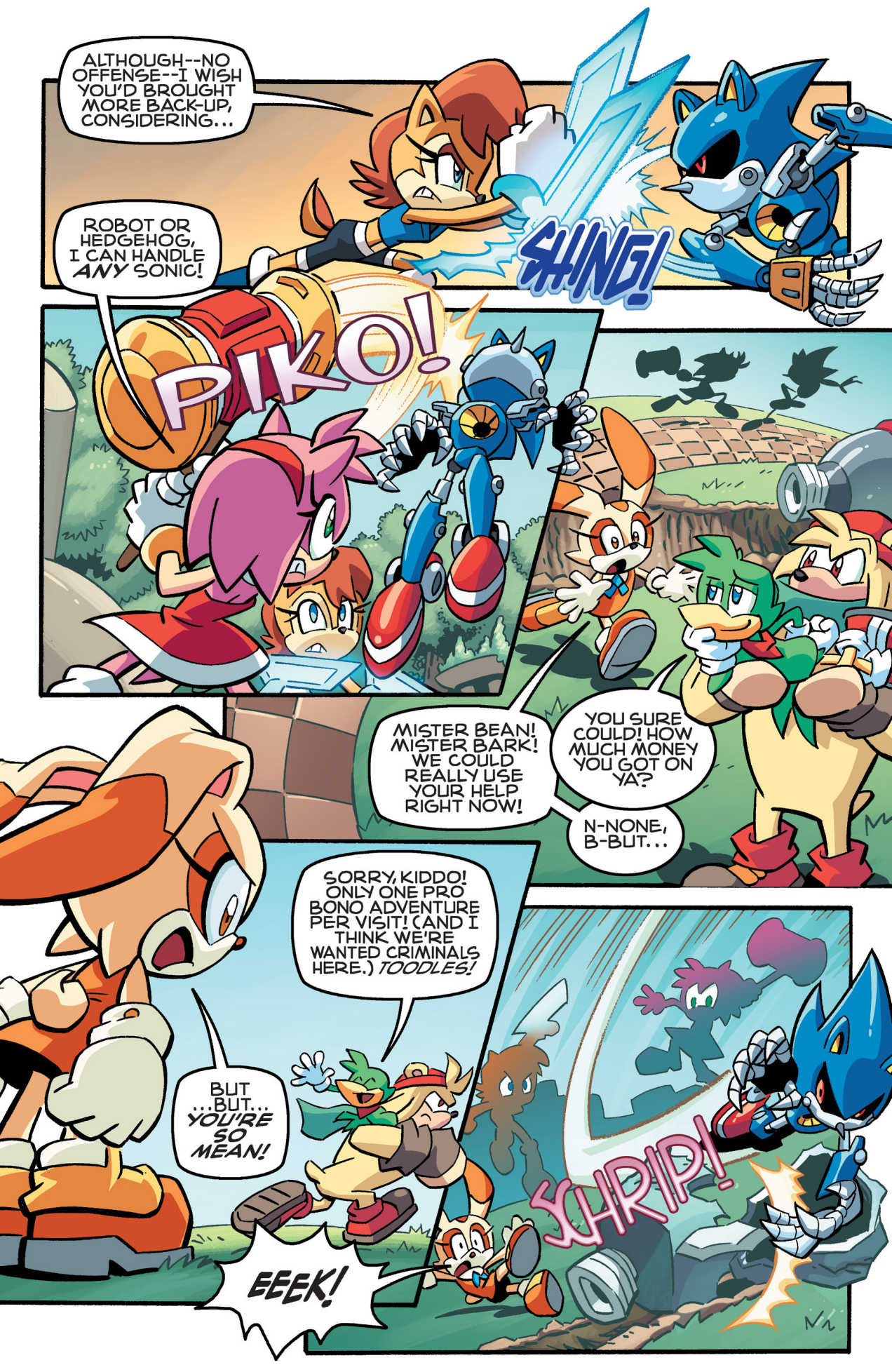
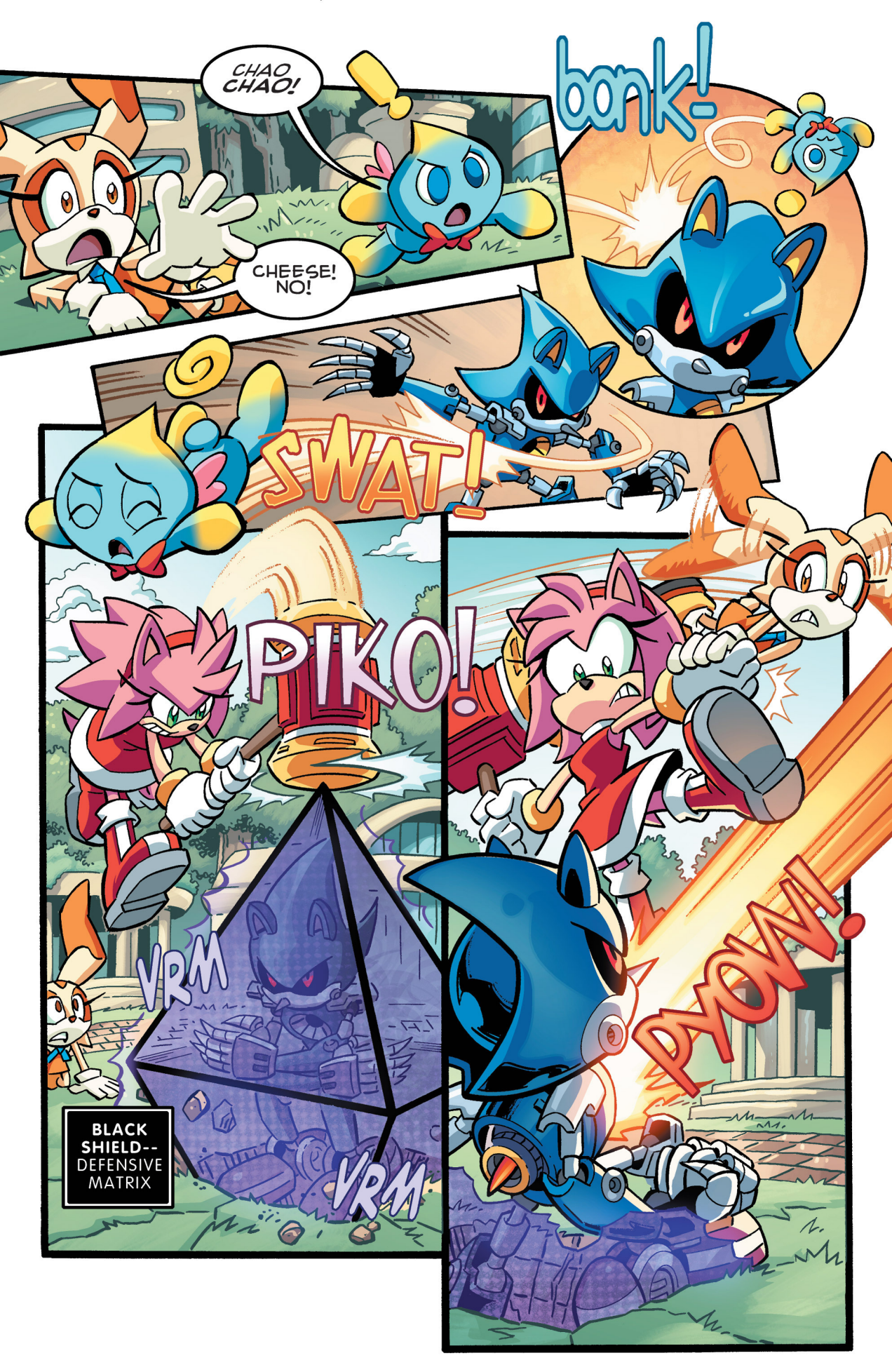
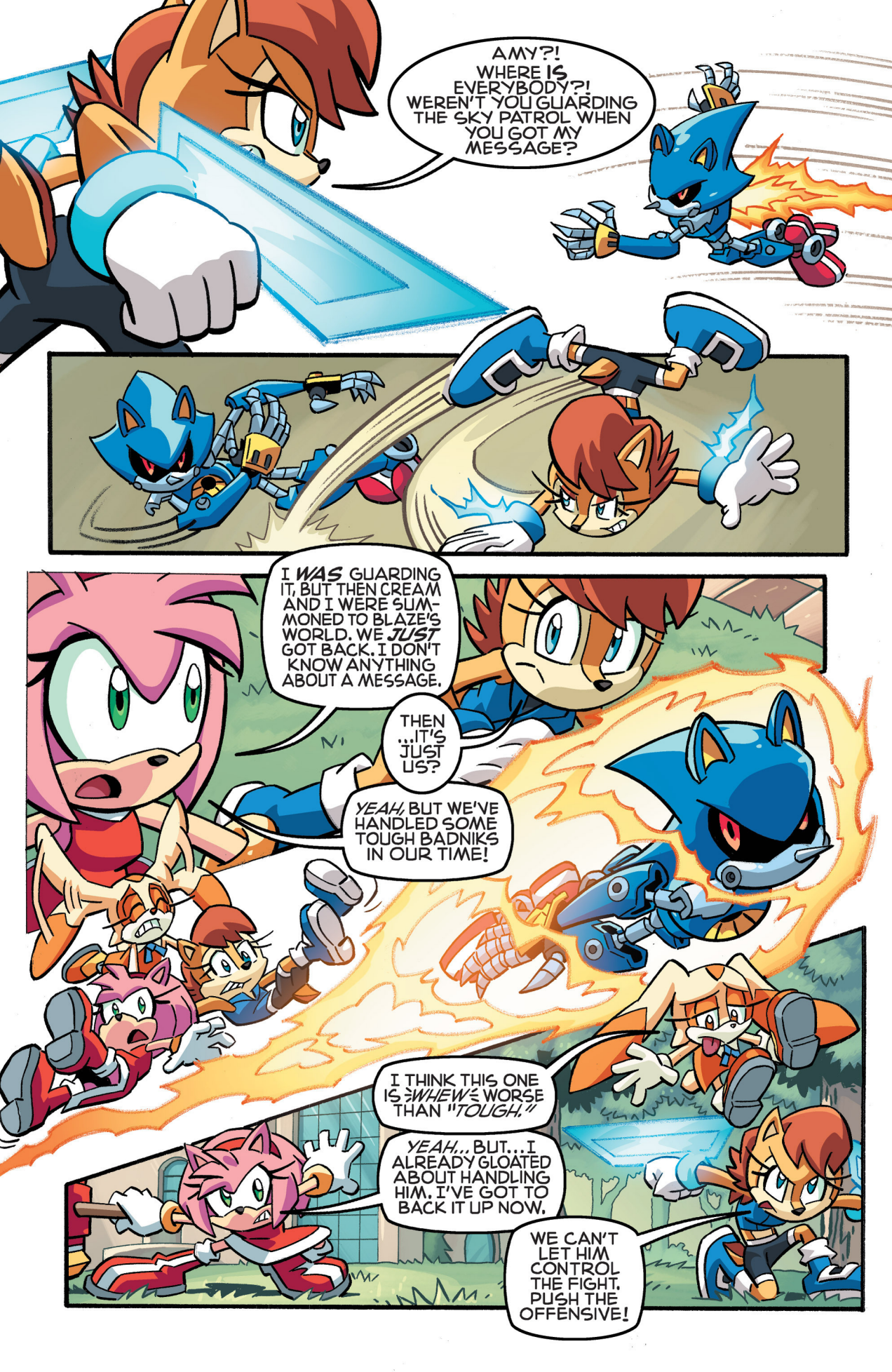
Special Thanks to ANTHONY GACCIONE and CINDY CHAU at SEGA Licensing

COUNTDOWN TO CHAOS
FINALE: THE PRINCESS AND THE HAMMER

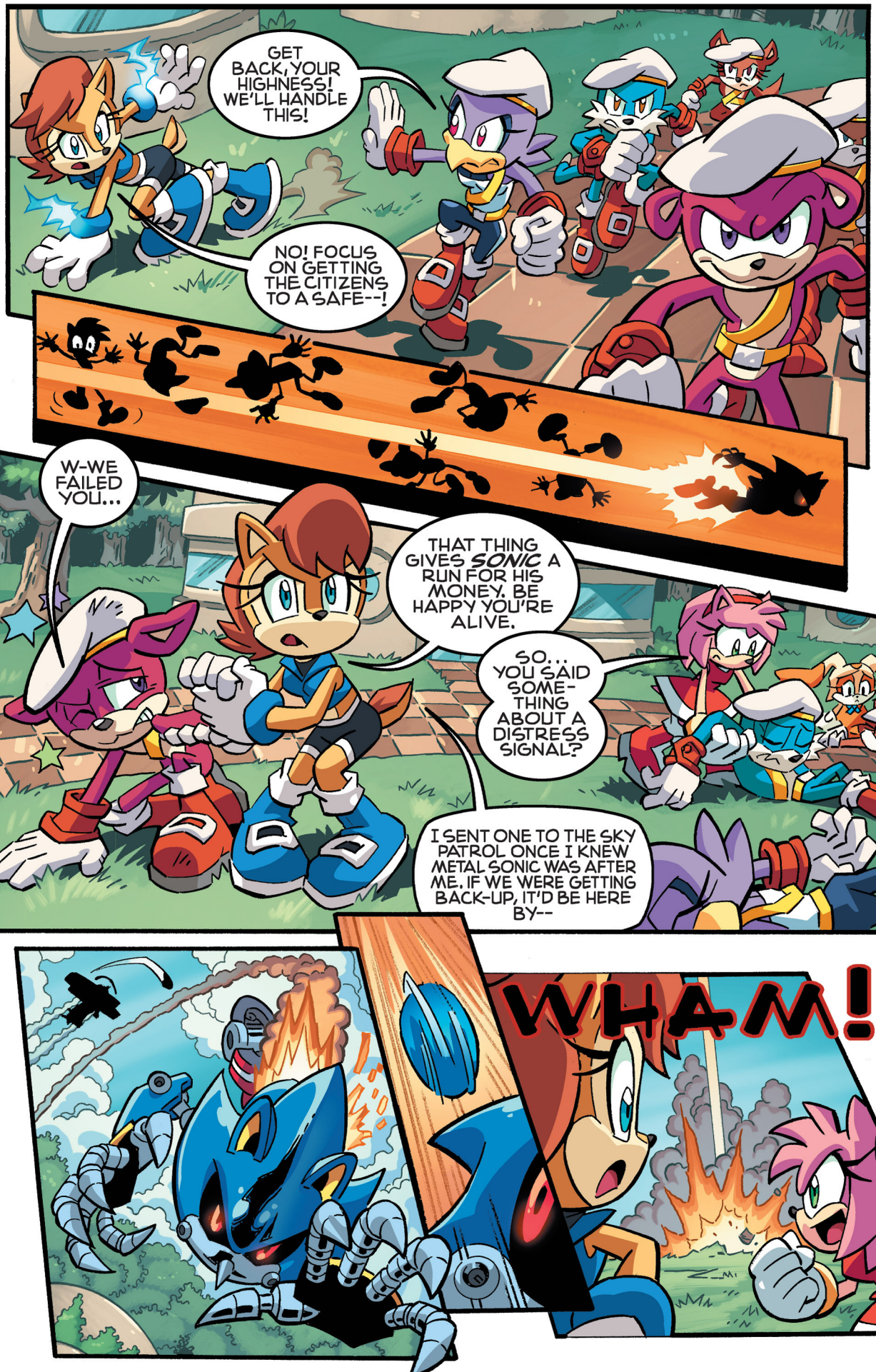

C'MON... C'MON...
CLANG!
SALLY?!
SALLY ACORN
THE PRINCESS
AMY! OH, THANK GOODNESS! I DIDN'T THINK MY DISTRESS SIGNAL GOT OUT! METAL SONIC'S RIGHT ON MY--
--TAIL!
METAL SONIC
KILLER ROBOT

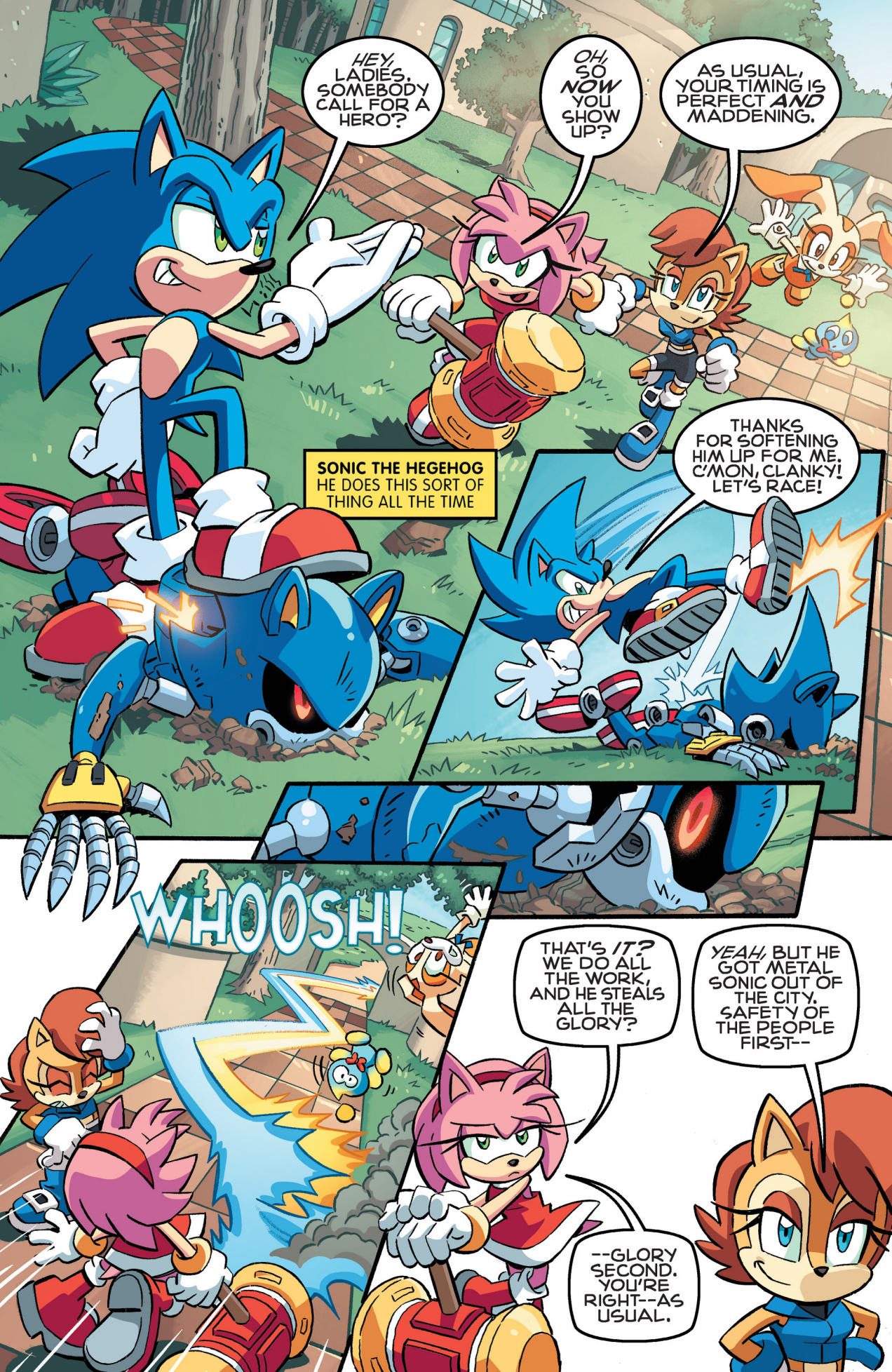

ALTHOUGH--NO OFFENSE--I WISH YOU'D BROUGHT MORE BACK-UP, CONSIDERING...
ROBOT OR HEDGEHOG, I CAN HANDLE ANY SONIC!
SHING!
PIKO!
MISTER BEAN! MISTER BARK! WE COULD REALLY USE YOUR HELP RIGHT NOW!
YOU SURE COULD! HOW MUCH MONEY YOU GOT ON YA?
N-NONE, B-BUT...
SORRY, KIDDO! ONLY ONE PRO BONO ADVENTURE PER VISIT! (AND I THINK WE'RE WANTED CRIMINALS HERE.) TOODLES!
BUT ...BUT... YOU'RE SO MEAN!
EEEK!
YHRIP!

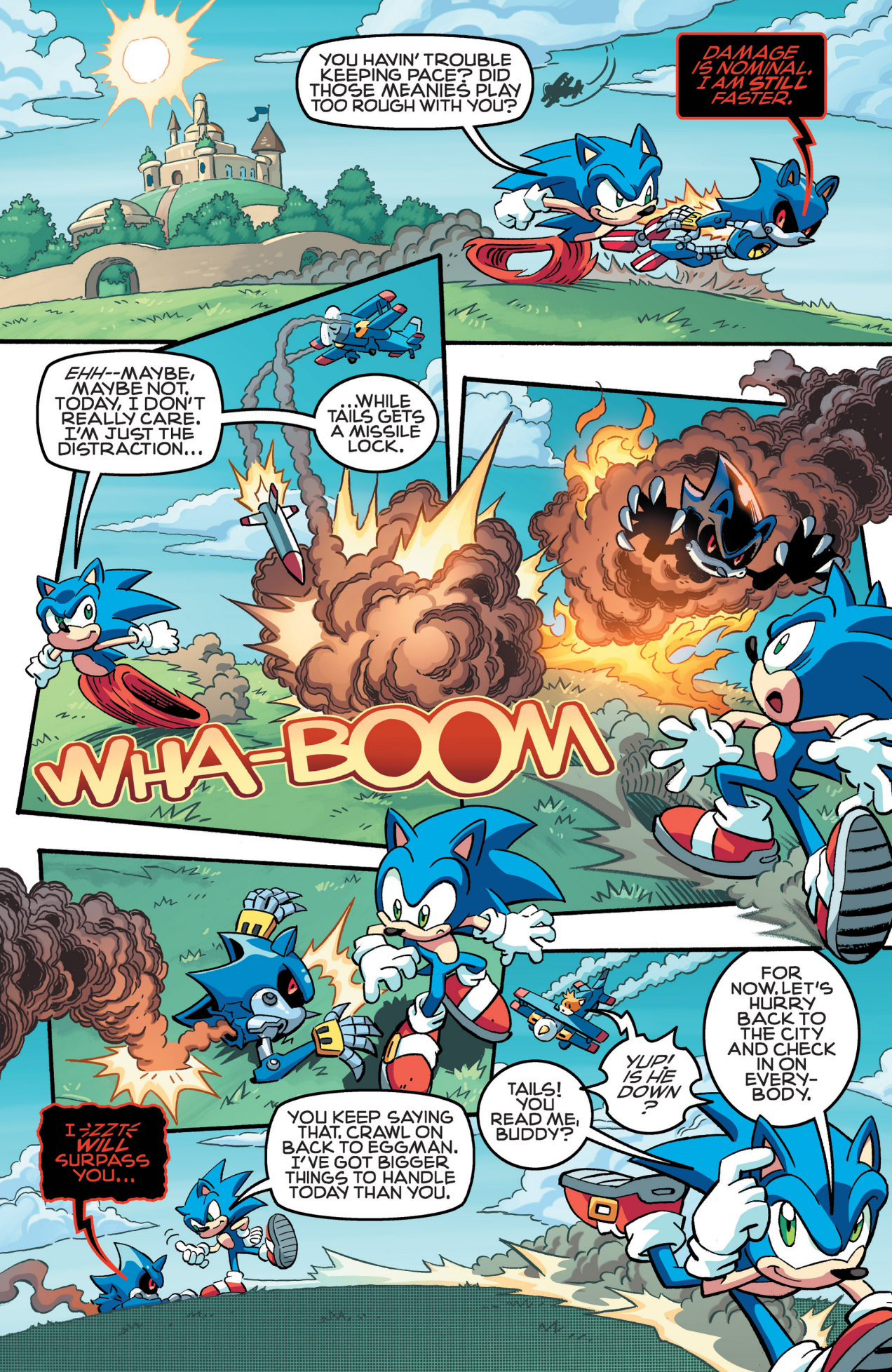

CHAO CHAO!
CHEESE! NO!
bonk!
SWAT!
PIKO!
VRM
VRM
BLACK SHIELD-- DEFENSIVE MATRIX
PYOW!

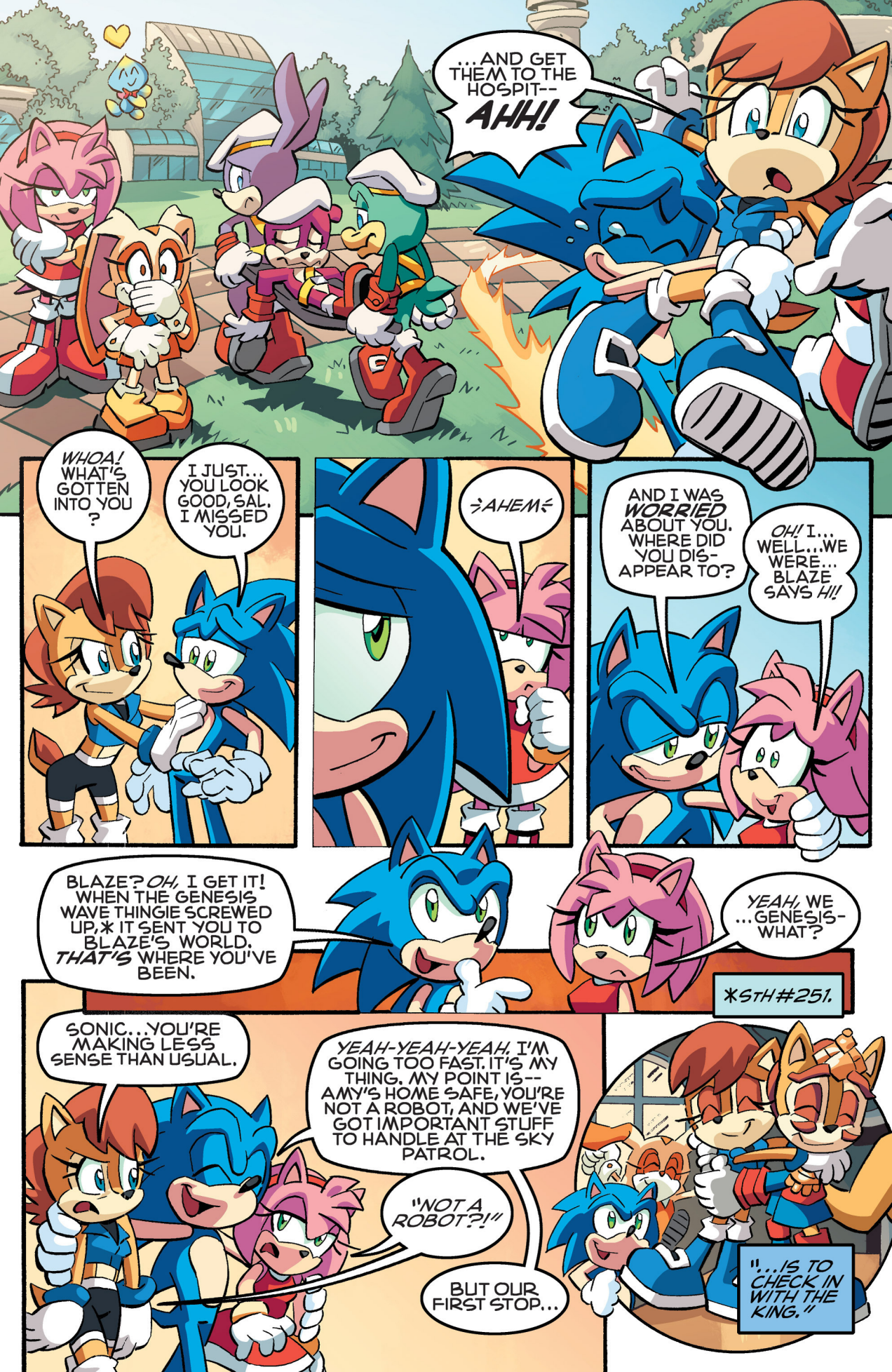

AMY?! WHERE IS EVERYBODY?! WEREN'T YOU GUARDING THE SKY PATROL WHEN YOU GOT MY MESSAGE?
I WAS GUARDING IT, BUT THEN CREAM AND I WERE SUMMONED TO BLAZE'S WORLD. WE JUST GOT BACK. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT A MESSAGE.
THEN ...IT'S JUST US?
YEAH, BUT WE'VE HANDLED SOME TOUGH BADNIKS IN OUR TIME!
I THINK THIS ONE IS WHEW WORSE THAN "TOUGH."
YEAH... BUT... I ALREADY GLOATED ABOUT HANDLING HIM. I'VE GOT TO BACK IT UP NOW.
WE CAN'T LET HIM CONTROL THE FIGHT. PUSH THE OFFENSIVE!

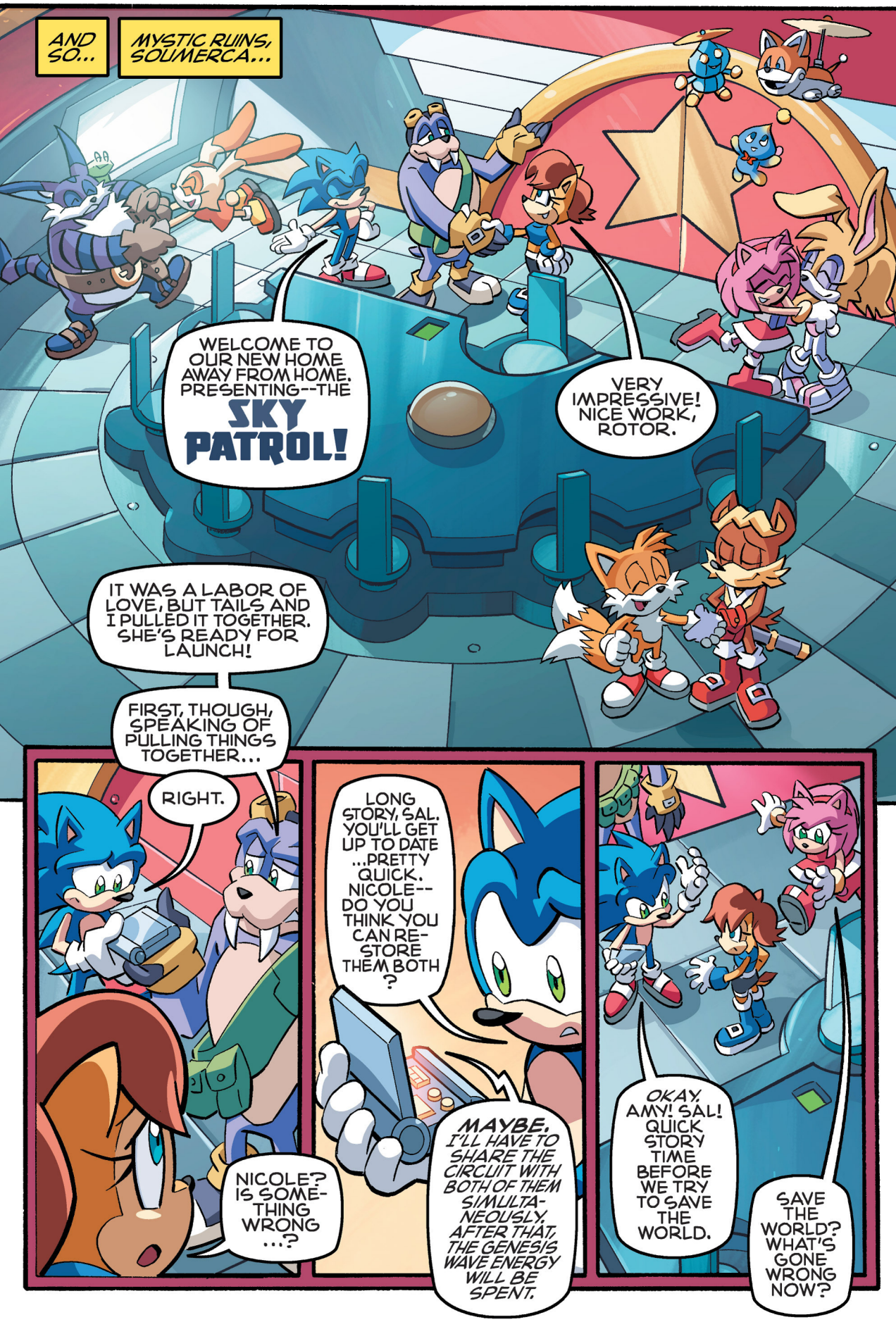
CHEESE --NOW!
bonk!
PIKO!
BURST SHIELD-- JOINT MATRIX


GET BACK, YOUR HIGHNESS! WE'LL HANDLE THIS!
NO! FOCUS ON GETTING THE CITIZENS TO A SAFE--!
W-WE FAILED YOU...
THAT THING GIVES *SONIC* A RUN FOR HIS MONEY. BE HAPPY YOU'RE ALIVE.
SO... YOU SAID SOME-THING ABOUT A DISTRESS SIGNAL?
I SENT ONE TO THE SKY PATROL ONCE I KNEW METAL SONIC WAS AFTER ME. IF WE WERE GETTING BACK-UP, IT'D BE HERE BY--
WHAM!


HEY, LADIES. SOMEBODY CALL FOR A HERO?
OH, SO NOW YOU SHOW UP?
AS USUAL, YOUR TIMING IS PERFECT AND MADDENING.
SONIC THE HEGEHOG
HE DOES THIS SORT OF THING ALL THE TIME
THANKS FOR SOFTENING HIM UP FOR ME. C'MON, CLANKY! LET'S RACE!
WHOOSH!
THAT'S IT? WE DO ALL THE WORK, AND HE STEALS ALL THE GLORY?
YEAH, BUT HE GOT METAL SONIC OUT OF THE CITY. SAFETY OF THE PEOPLE FIRST--
--GLORY SECOND. YOU'RE RIGHT--AS USUAL.

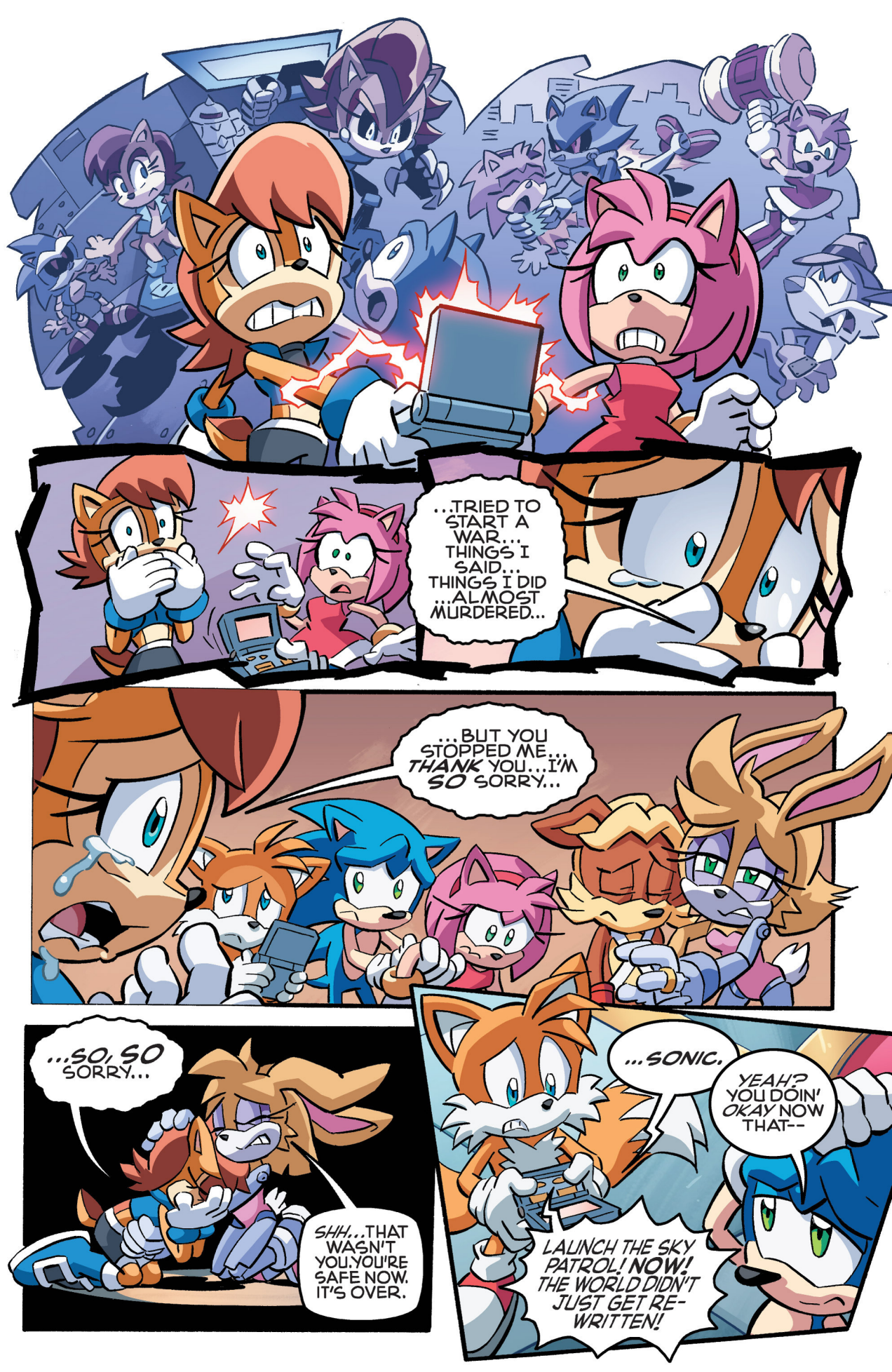

YOU HAVIN' TROUBLE KEEPING PACE? DID THOSE MEANIES PLAY TOO ROUGH WITH YOU?
DAMAGE IS NOMINAL. I AM STILL FASTER.
EHH--MAYBE, MAYBE NOT. TODAY, I DON'T REALLY CARE. I'M JUST THE DISTRACTION...
...WHILE TAILS GETS A MISSILE LOCK.
WHA-BOOM
I-ZZZT WILL SURPASS YOU...
YOU KEEP SAYING THAT. CRAWL ON BACK TO EGGMAN. I'VE GOT BIGGER THINGS TO HANDLE TODAY THAN YOU.
TAILS! YOU READ ME, BUDDY?
YUP! IS HE DOWN?
FOR NOW, LET'S HURRY BACK TO THE CITY AND CHECK IN ON EVERY-BODY.


...AND GET THEM TO THE HOSPIT--
AHH!
WHOA! WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?
I JUST... YOU LOOK GOOD, SAL. I MISSED YOU.
AHEM
AND I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU. WHERE DID YOU DIS-APPEAR TO?
OH! I... WELL...WE WERE... BLAZE SAYS HI!
BLAZE? OH, I GET IT! WHEN THE GENESIS WAVE THINGIE SCREWED UP,* IT SENT YOU TO BLAZE'S WORLD. THAT'S WHERE YOU'VE BEEN.
YEAH, WE ...GENESIS-WHAT?
*STH #251.
SONIC...YOU'RE MAKING LESS SENSE THAN USUAL.
YEAH-YEAH-YEAH, I'M GOING TOO FAST. IT'S MY THING. MY POINT IS-- AMY'S HOME SAFE, YOU'RE NOT A ROBOT, AND WE'VE GOT IMPORTANT STUFF TO HANDLE AT THE SKY PATROL.
"NOT A ROBOT?!"
BUT OUR FIRST STOP...
"...IS TO CHECK IN WITH THE KING."

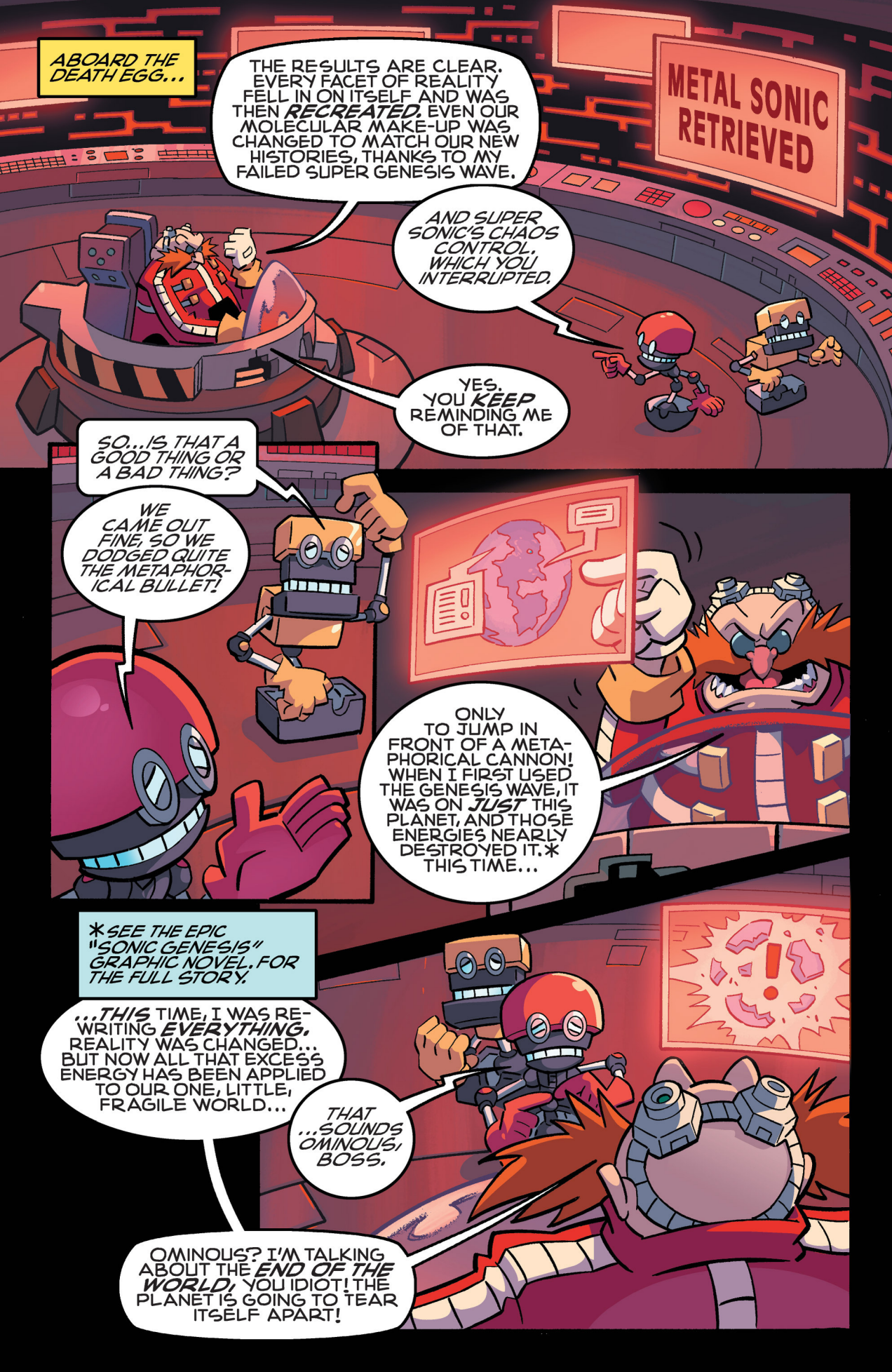

AND SO...
MYSTIC RUINS, SOUMERCA...
WELCOME TO OUR NEW HOME AWAY FROM HOME. PRESENTING--THE SKY PATROL!
VERY IMPRESSIVE! NICE WORK, ROTOR.
IT WAS A LABOR OF LOVE, BUT TAILS AND I PULLED IT TOGETHER. SHE'S READY FOR LAUNCH!
FIRST, THOUGH, SPEAKING OF PULLING THINGS TOGETHER...
RIGHT.
NICOLE? IS SOMETHING WRONG...?
LONG STORY, SAL. YOU'LL GET UP TO DATE ...PRETTY QUICK. NICOLE--DO YOU THINK YOU CAN RESTORE THEM BOTH?
MAYBE. I'LL HAVE TO SHARE THE CIRCUIT WITH BOTH OF THEM SIMULTANEOUSLY. AFTER THAT, THE GENESIS WAVE ENERGY WILL BE SPENT.
OKAY, AMY! SAL! QUICK STORY TIME BEFORE WE TRY TO SAVE THE WORLD.
SAVE THE WORLD? WHAT'S GONE WRONG NOW?

YOU'RE NOT GONNA REMEMBER THIS, BUT...TO PUT IT *REALLY* SIMPLY, EGGMAN TRIED REWRITING REALITY WITH SOMETHING CALLED THE *GENESIS WAVE.* I TRIED TO FIX THINGS, HE GOT IN MY WAY, AND OUR WORLD WAS...CHANGED.*
*"WORLD'S COLLIDE" FINALE--STH #251.
ANYWAY, IT LOOKS LIKE ONE SIDE-EFFECT WAS THAT SOME OF THE LEFTOVER ENERGY FROM THE WAVE GOT TRANSFERRED TO NICOLE, WHICH THREW HER SYSTEMS OUT OF WHACK. BUT WHEN SHE TRANSFERS THAT ENERGY TO US, IT FIXES HER A BIT, AND WE ...WELL, WE REMEMBER. HOW THE WORLD USED TO BE.
WHOA... A WHOLE DIFFERENT LIFE?
BETWEEN THE SPECIAL ZONE AND OUR INTERACTIONS WITH BLAZE AND SILVER, ALTERNATE TIMELINES SEEM LOGICAL ENOUGH. WHAT HAPPENS ONCE WE RESTORE YOUR DATABASE?
I'M HOPING I'LL BE ABLE TO ANALYZE EVERYTHING AND FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENED TO OUR WORLD.

Y'ALL NEED TO BRACE YOURSELVES, THO'. IT'S A JARRIN' EXPERIENCE BY ITSELF, BUT THIS OTHER LIFE...THINGS WERE SO *DIFFERENT*, SALLY-GIRL. AND *YOU*...
NOW, HOLD ON. IT ALMOST SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE TRYING TO TALK US OUT OF THIS. IF THIS RESTORES NICOLE, THEN THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT GOING FORWARD. IF THE FATE OF THE WORLD IS INVOLVED, THAT'S DOUBLY TRUE.
GIVEN EVERYTHING SONIC'S SAID, IT SOUNDS LIKE WE'VE BEEN GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE TO SAVE EVERYONE. BUT I CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT ALL OF YOU.
LIKE YOU'VE GOTTA ASK! WE'RE THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS.
OKAY. DON'T SAY WE DIDN'T WARN YOU.
AS LONG AS WE'VE GOT EACH OTHER, WE CAN HANDLE *ANY* CRISIS.
READY FOR THIS?
WHO KNOWS? LET'S JUST GET IT OVER WITH.
ALL RIGHT. FOR NICOLE, AND FOR THE WORLD.


...TRIED TO START A WAR... THINGS I SAID... THINGS I DID ...ALMOST MURDERED...
...BUT YOU STOPPED ME... THANK YOU...I'M SO SORRY...
...SO, SO SORRY...
SHH...THAT WASN'T YOU.YOU'RE SAFE NOW. IT'S OVER.
...SONIC.
YEAH? YOU DOIN' OKAY NOW THAT--
LAUNCH THE SKY PATROL! NOW! THE WORLD DIDN'T JUST GET RE-WRITTEN!

VREEEEE!
TAKE IT EASY, NICOLE. WHAT'S THE RUSH?
THIS IS...FAR WORSE THAN I ANTICIPATED. ANALYZING WHAT I NOW KNOW ABOUT THE DUAL REALITIES, I'VE FOUND IT WASN'T JUST THE PLANET THAT WAS AFFECTED ...NOT JUST OUR REALITY.
THE ENTIRE MULTI-VERSE COLLAPSED IN UPON ITSELF.


ABOARD THE DEATH EGG...
THE RESULTS ARE CLEAR. EVERY FACET OF REALITY FELL IN ON ITSELF AND WAS THEN RECREATED. EVEN OUR MOLECULAR MAKE-UP WAS CHANGED TO MATCH OUR NEW HISTORIES, THANKS TO MY FAILED SUPER GENESIS WAVE.
METAL SONIC RETRIEVED
AND SUPER SONIC'S CHAOS CONTROL, WHICH YOU INTERRUPTED.
YES. YOU KEEP REMINDING ME OF THAT.
SO...IS THAT A GOOD THING OR A BAD THING?
WE CAME OUT FINE, SO WE DODGED QUITE THE METAPHORICAL BULLET!
ONLY TO JUMP IN FRONT OF A METAPHORICAL CANNON! WHEN I FIRST USED THE GENESIS WAVE, IT WAS ON JUST THIS PLANET, AND THOSE ENERGIES NEARLY DESTROYED IT.* THIS TIME...
*SEE THE EPIC "SONIC GENESIS" GRAPHIC NOVEL. FOR THE FULL STORY.
...THIS TIME, I WAS RE-WRITING EVERYTHING. REALITY WAS CHANGED... BUT NOW ALL THAT EXCESS ENERGY HAS BEEN APPLIED TO OUR ONE, LITTLE, FRAGILE WORLD...
THAT ...SOUNDS OMINOUS, BOSS.
OMINOUS? I'M TALKING ABOUT THE END OF THE WORLD, YOU IDIOT! THE PLANET IS GOING TO TEAR ITSELF APART!

WHOA--HOLD ON, NICOLE. WE SAVE THE WORLD ALL THE TIME!
RIGHT! WHAT DO WE DO TO STOP IT?
...HA! HA-HA! GOOD ONE, SIR. YOU HAD ME GOING THERE, BOSS. YOU HAVE A PLAN, YES?
YOU'RE A GENIUS! YOU CAN FIX THIS, RIGHT?
STOP IT?
FIX IT?
IT'S TOO LATE!
RRRUMBLE!!!

IS THIS THE END?

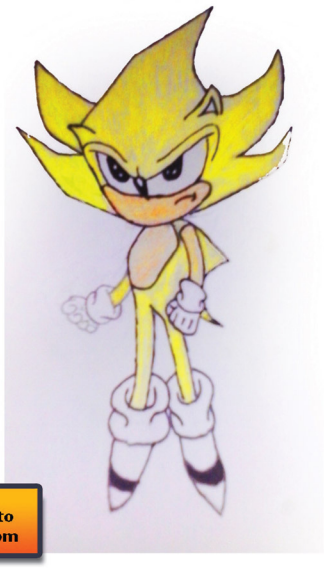
Or only just the **beginning?**
You've met the new
FREEDOM FIGHTERS
--now **watch** as they're
put to the **test!**
You simply **can't miss** all
the **action** and **adventure**
coming atcha **NEXT ISH!**

See you in thirty!

SONIC-GRAMS FAN ART

Hunter R. from Canada

Jeff B. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com



Donald S. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Arion. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

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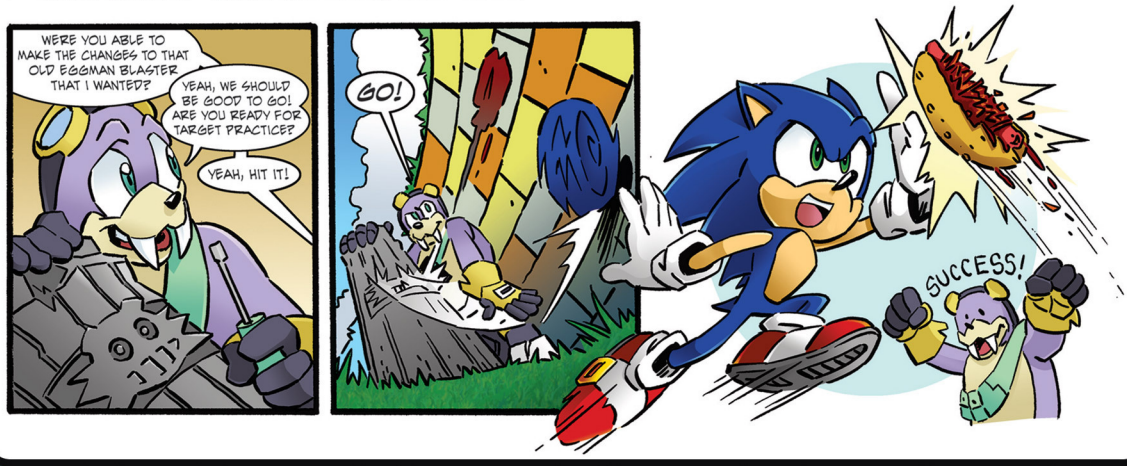
OFF PANEL

SCRIPT: TYLER CAPPS PENCILS: EVAN STANLEY
INKS: TERRY AUSTIN COLORS: ALEAH BAKER


WERE YOU ABLE TO MAKE THE CHANGES TO THAT OLD EGGMAN BLASTER THAT I WANTED?
YEAH, WE SHOULD BE GOOD TO GO! ARE YOU READY FOR TARGET PRACTICE?
YEAH, HIT IT!
GO!
SUCCESS!

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Dear 'Sonic Grams,'
Hi, I'm Jamie. I love your Sonic the Hedgehog comics and I think that Countdown to Chaos is so awesome!!! I want to ask some questions.

What did you think of that EPIC ending? The chaos is just beginning so keep following the story, you won't wanna miss it! Oh, and you will be having the usual!

What can I do to make myself a better comic artist?

Draw everyday, especially from life! Great cartooning and illustrating starts only after you get a good sense of how everything appears in reality. Also, take a lot of art classes. Some colleges offer specific comic illustrating courses, check them out!

What does a penciller do?

The penciller is responsible for illustrating the story. The pencils should be tight and precise so that the inker knows where to add the shading and depth that give the pencilled images more definition. If the lines were sketchy, the inker would not know where to ink!

How can I catch up with the story without going on the Sonic/Archie app?

Although the app is most likely the fastest way to catch up, the Sonic Archives, Sonic Saga Series, and Sonic Universe graphic novels are some of the best options if you prefer paper over digital. For more information on these series checkout the Sonic Graphic Novel Library coupon in this issue!

I went by my favorite comic shop and found Best of Sonic the Hedgehog: Villains, what can I expect from it?

The Best of Sonic the Hedgehog: Villains is a collector's hard cover graphic novel featuring stories focused on the best of Sonic's worst enemies!

You guys are amazing, how can I get my letter into Sonic the Hedgehog? Please Please Please Please Pleeeeeeease put this letter in the comic!!!

Sincerely, Scourge's biggest fan, Jamie! sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks for the praise and the letter, Jamie! As you may have realized, saying please five times can sometimes do the trick! Keep drawing and be sure to stay right here with Sonic the Hedgehog!

See y'all next month for an exciting rescue story, DAMAGE CONTROL!

COLLECTOR COVER SPOTLIGHT

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #256

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TRACY YARDLEY!
WITH PHYLLIS NOVIN & DUSTIN EVANS

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